

MLP 7254.1
PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of David A. Johnson et al. Art Unit 3726
Serial No. 10/723,597
Filed November 24, 2003
Confirmation No. 8690
For METHOD OF INSTALLING AN EDGEPIECE ON A BATTERY PLATE
Examiner Stephen Kenny

April 21, 2005

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

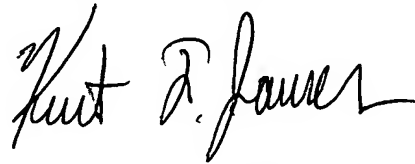
Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due (hereinafter "Notice") dated February 17, 2005.

In response to the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance set forth in the Notice, Applicants note that claim 1 as allowed is directed toward a method for applying an edge piece to the edge of a battery plate, comprising: (a) providing a thin strip of bendable plastic material; (b) bending said strip into an open top U-shaped channel having opposed sides which are interconnected by a bottom element; (c) cutting said channel into an edge piece having a length substantially equal to the length of the edge of the battery plate which is to be covered; (d) supporting said edge piece with said open top oriented in a particular direction; (e) transporting a battery plate toward said open top of said supported edge piece such that the edge of the battery plate will be inserted into said supported edge piece; and (f) releasing said edge piece once the edge of the battery plate is inserted therein.

Applicants submit that while claim 1 lists the steps of the method in one order, this order is not limiting nor temporal in nature. Temporal language such as "followed by," "subsequently," or "finally," as used in the Notice, is not recited in claim 1. Applicants submit that some of the steps may be performed in a different order and still be within the scope of claim 1. For

example, a method comprising the following steps would be within the scope of claim 1: (a) providing a thin strip of bendable plastic material; (b) bending said strip into an open top U-shaped channel having opposed sides which are interconnected by a bottom element; (c) supporting said open top U-shaped channel with said open top oriented in a particular direction; (d) transporting a battery plate toward said open top of said U-shape channel such that the edge of the battery plate will be inserted into said supported channel; (e) cutting said channel into an edge piece having a length substantially equal to the length of the edge of the covered battery plate; and (f) releasing said edge piece and inserted battery plate.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kurt F. James".

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**NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN STATUS RESULTING IN
LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS**

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

Please change your records to reflect that the above-referenced patent application no longer qualifies as a small entity. Accordingly, the total fees due associated with issuance of this application are being paid as a large entity.

Respectfully submitted,

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